

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

In the autofocus system, a signal of the high-frequency component is extracted from a picture signal so that the major object in focus can be easily distinguished from other objects (background images). Then, the position of the major object moving on the viewing area is determined according to the signal of the high-frequency component. Thus, it is possible to modify the range of the focus area to include the determined position of the major object or modify the viewing area of the camera so that the focus area includes the position of the major object so as to keep focusing on the major object.